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Davis Awards \$500,000 Grant to Laurel for New Fire Station

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today awarded a \$500,000 Community Focus Fund grant to the town of Laurel in Franklin County for the construction of a new fire station.

The current Laurel Volunteer Fire Department facility was constructed in the 1970s by a group of citizen volunteers. During the last decade, the community has been faced with increasing financial demands associated with keeping the fire department operational.

“The town of Laurel is making an investment that will allow the community to provide better protection for its citizens,” said Davis, who serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. “We are proud to offer this grant as a way to support a valuable community service project.”

The town of Laurel will utilize the Commerce grant to construct a new station in place of the current town hall, which will soon be demolished. The new facility will provide adequate space for firefighting vehicles and training activities, as well as additional space for town hall operations.

The Community Focus Fund (CFF) is a federally funded grant program administered by the Indiana Department of Commerce. The funding is available to small cities, towns and counties for construction projects designed to benefit low- to moderate-income individuals or to eliminate blight in communities. Grants are awarded through competitive funding rounds to assist small communities in long-term development projects.

Projects eligible for CFF grants include local infrastructure improvements, childcare facilities, senior and community centers, downtown revitalization and fire stations and fire trucks. Up to \$500,000 is available per applicant. A match of at least 10 percent is required from the grant recipient.

In this, the second round of funding for 2004, 37 Hoosier communities shared in nearly \$15 million in funding.

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For more information about the CFF grant program, contact the Office of Community Assistance in the Community Development Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce at 800.824.2476 or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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